Bailey Bishop
10 Buena Vista Park
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02140
(617) 661-5765

Monday, March 19th, 2001

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
Saint Louis, Missouri 63105-2225

Dear Mr. Newman,

I am pleased to offer this early American counterfeiter's narrative:

[A Short] Account of the Life, of John ********** Alias Owen Syllavan, Alias John Livingston, alias John Brown, by which Names he stood indicted by the Grand Jury, and was found Guilty by the Supreme Sessions for the City and County of New-York, for Counterfeiting and passing the Current Bills of that Colony emitted in the Year 1737: And was Executed on Monday the 10th Day of May 1756. Shewing what Manner of Life he led from his Infancy. Taken from his own Mouth. To which is added, His Dying Speech at the Place of Execution. New-York: Printed. Boston: Re-printed and Sold by Green & Russell, at their Printing-Office near the Custom-House, and next to the Writing School in Queen-Street. 1756.

1737 is wrong. It is 1755 with the sigs he mentions

Octavo, 12 pp., removed (piece missing from top of title-page, taking "A Short").

Rare survival, with title surrounded by black bands, and with frontispiece woodcut of a hanging on verso. Evans did not know of a copy and took incorrect title from Haven's Catalogue. Only one copy located by ESTC. Not in Hamilton.

First extant edition (no New York edition is recorded in Evans or ESTC). Earliest known use of woodcut, which shows man hanging from scaffold, with cart, coffin, and crowd of spectators; the woodcut was reused on two Boston execution broadsides of 1757 and 1773.

Conn
5/8/40 redated
5/8/46

NH 4/3/42
redated 44/45
many denoms

probably Mass 10s
6/20/44 40s

probably
RI 4/3/42 & redating

this is
May 25, 1755
with these
signatures

Unusual narrative of a counterfeiter. Syllavan came to Boston from Ireland, served in Governor Shirley's campaign against Louisburg in 1745, became armourer, engraving arms for Shirley's and Sir William Pepperrell's regiments, then turned his talent to other engraving, including seal cutting, silversmithing, and counterfeiting. He was jailed in Boston for making New Hampshire money and Boston bills of credit, and while jailed, printed more by hand. He escaped to Rhode Island, where he was again jailed for counterfeiting, branded on both cheeks, had his ears cropped, and again escaped to Dutchess County, New York, where he "made large sums of Rhode-Island money, of six assortments, and of the New-Hampshire currency ten or twelve thousand pounds, and…of Connecticut money, I made three sorts, and printed off about three thousand pounds,…of New-York currency four sorts, and all of the new currency…[was signed] De Lancey, Depuyster, and Livingston."

Evans 7796 (wrong title), Shipton and Mooney p. 816, Sabin 94098, Samuel F. Haven "Catalogue of Publications in What Is Now the United States, Prior to the Revolution" in Appendix to Isaiah Thomas *History of Printing*, Second Edition, Albany, 1874, p. 531 (wrong title); Reilly 1182.

$600

Hope this finds you well. You are Goodspeed's oldest (not in age) customer. Please remember me to your brother-in-law, Julian Edison.

My very best to you,

Bailey

P.S. In case I should reintroduce myself, I have been engaged for thirty-five years in appraising, purchasing, and selling rare Americana—I headed the Americana department at Goodspeed's and continued it under my own name—and am known to the major private collectors and research libraries.

Bailey Bishop
10 Buena Vista Park
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02140
(617) 661-5765

Invoice

March 27, 2001

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
Saint Louis, Missouri 63105-2225

ON APPROVAL

A Short Account of the Life, of John ********** Alias Owen Syllavan, Alias John Livingston, alias John Brown, by which Names he stood indicted…and was found Guilty by the Supreme Sessions for the City and County of New-York, for Counterfeiting…and was Executed on Monday the 10th Day of May 1756. New-York: Printed. Boston: Re-printed and Sold by Green & Russell, at their Printing-Office near the Custom-House, and next to the Writing School in Queen-Street. 1756. 600.00

No charge for shipping and insurance

Thank you!

Subj:	**Earliest Illustration in Americsn Numismatic Literature**
Date:	04/07/2001 7:58:25 PM Central Daylight Time
From:	EricNumis
To:	WHomren@coiblibrary.com

Wayne: Here is a query for your Bulletin if you wish to use it. In my library there may be the earliest piece of American numismatic literature containing an illustration. The woodcut illustration is not of a coin or paper money but the 1756 hanging of "Owen Sullivan" in New York for counterfeiting. (See copy of woodcut in Kenneth Scott's Counterfeiting in Colonial America) The pamphlet is "A Short Account of the Life of John ----------, Owen Syllavan, etc." published in Boston in 1756. Only one other example is known according to published research. There are many other earlier American publications on money having no illustrations. The Colonial Laws of Massachusetts have illustrations of paper money but they are not numismatic publications and include all subjects. Naturally there are many earlier European numismatic publications with pictures. Can any bibliophile confirm or refute this American situation? Eric P.Newman

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6250 Cecil Avenue, St Louis, Missouri 63105

Mr. Bailey Bishop
10 Buena Vista Park
Cambridge, MA 02140

April 9, 2001

Dear Bailey:

It was a pleasant surprise for me to hear from you. I knew that if you were associated with Mr. Walsh you would be the best.

I have studied the Sullivan woodcut and knew about it from Kenneth Scott's publications. Because you remembered me from Goodspeed's list of customers I am enclosing with a taint of reluctance a check for what you asked. I have learned over the years to reject seriously damaged items, particularly those with a title page defect. I do not enjoy asking a dealer for a price reduction. I felt the price was somewhat high for such a damaged and trimmed piece, regardless of its rarity. You apparently found this item in a group of sermons so I'm not going to give you a sermon.

What I suggest is that you find and send to me when you find them or if you have them a couple of early American almanacs with money exchange tables in them. I have about 40 different between 1750 and 1815. They are reasonably common and as you know of minimal value. The money tables in them are usually only a part of a page but they are often different in different areas and during different times. Often there is more than one money table in one almanac. I do not mean interest tables in which I have no "interest" – only the exchange value of foreign coin, weight of foreign coin, money of account conversions, etc. I have one almanac of 1805 with 5 money tables in it.

Please also notify me of anything unusual in American numismatic literature or relationship that you turn up. My library has things few like myself enjoy but trends always are changing.

Julian Edison appreciates and returns your greetings.

Thank you for thinking of me,

Eric P. Newman

Subj: **Re: THE ASYLUM editor or editors**
Date: 05/14/2001 9:26:50 PM Central Daylight Time
From: whomren@telerama.com (Wayne Homren)
Reply-to: whomren@coinlibrary.com
To: EricNumis@aol.com, Etfort@aol.com (Tom Fort)

EricNumis@aol.com wrote:

> Wayne : Would you be nice enough to tell me to whom I should submit a
> short
> but very timely article for publication in THE ASYLUM. Both snail mail
> and
> Email. It is ready now. Thank you. Eric

Send your article to Tom Fort:

E. Tomlinson Fort
P.O. Box 5035
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Email: Etfort@aol.com

---------- Headers ----------
Return-Path: <whomren@telerama.com>
Received: from rly-yg03.mx.aol.com (rly-yg03.mail.aol.com [172.18.147.3]) by air-yg02.mail.aol.com (v77_r1.36) with ESMTP; Mon, 14 May 2001 22:26:50 -0400
Received: from femail11.sdc1.sfba.home.com (femail11.sdc1.sfba.home.com [24.0.95.107]) by rly-yg03.mx.aol.com (v77_r1.36) with ESMTP; Mon, 14 May 2001 22:26:49 -0400
Received: from telerama.com ([24.8.212.147]) by femail11.sdc1.sfba.home.com
(InterMail vM.4.01.03.20 201-229-121-120-20010223) with ESMTP
id <20010515022648.HXZN22926.femail11.sdc1.sfba.home.com@telerama.com>;
Mon, 14 May 2001 19:26:48 -0700
Message-ID: <3B009432.809CEB9A@telerama.com>
Date: Mon, 14 May 2001 22:28:02 -0400
From: Wayne Homren <whomren@telerama.com>
Reply-To: whomren@coinlibrary.com
X-Sender: "Wayne Homren" <@mail> (Unverified)
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.7 [en]C-TeleramaCCK (Win98; U)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: EricNumis@aol.com, Tom Fort <Etfort@aol.com>
Subject: Re: THE ASYLUM editor or editors
References: <9.15555eb5.28315e56@aol.com>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

THE ASYLUM
The Journal of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society
http://www.coinbooks.org

E. Tomlinson Fort
Editor
P.O. Box 5035
Pittsburgh, PA 15206 U.S.A.
(412) 365-7016
etfort@aol.com

18 June 2001

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

First, let me apologize for not writing to you sooner. I have been very busy at my "real" job with a number of items and today was the first day for some weeks when I actually had a chance to go out and look at my post box.

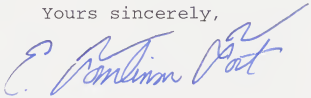
Second, I would like to thank you very much for the short article on the 18th century pamphlet which you recently acquired. It is in regards to this that I am writing. Sadly, the illustration which you sent is really suitable for publication. Obviously this is a factor of the age and print/paper quality of the original. I can try to "improve" it with PhotoShop but I am not sure that this will work. A better solution would be either a high quality black and white photograph or, even better, a high resolution scan. If you need our electronic image requirements let me know and I can send them to you, or if you prefer, Wayne Homren has volunteered to scan or digitally photograph the original if you want to send it to him.

Also, regarding this work, your article does not state if there is a modern publication of it? It so could you please supply me with the reference(s). If the work has not been published elsewhere might I publish it in The Asylum?

I know that the text such a rare work would be of interest to our readers. If you do not want to key in the text Wayne Homren has volunteered to do so and you can either send the work or a photocopy to him.

Once again thank you for your time. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at any time.

Yours sincerely,



E. Tomlinson Fort

Subj:	**Asylum article by Newman**
Date:	06/23/2001 9:22:43 AM Central Daylight Time
From:	EricNumis
To:	Etfort

Thank you for your detailed June 18, 2001 letter about the article I sent you for the Asylum about the hanging of a counterfeiter in early America. My son is trying to sharpen the illustration but it is a very crowded dark woodcut with very thin white parts. As far as expanding the article is concerned I will be glad to do that as all of the work was done on the citations and I will condense some of the content of the pamphlet about the life of the character and include that. I tried to be short but I see you feel it should be more detailed. Thank you for your suggestions. Eric P. Newman

Subj:	**Re: Asylum article by Newman**
Date:	06/23/2001 8:03:05 PM Central Daylight Time
From:	Etfort
To:	EricNumis

Dear Mr. Newman,
thank you very much for your kind letter. I certainly think that your recent acquisition deserves more space. Once the article is finished, feel free to e-mail the text to me as an attachment (if nothing else it saves me the trouble of having to key it in). I assume that this pamphlet has not been reprinted since its original publication. In view of its extreme rarity and the brevity of the work I again offer you The Asylum as a place to publish the complete text. This would certainly make the work available to a larger audience, and -- more importantly -- make it much more accessible to future researchers.

I also more than sympathize with your problems with the illustration. If your son can convert it to an electronic image, have him e-mail me and I shall let him know the requirements. Likewise, if you let us publish the entire text, I would also like an image, electronic or photographic, of the first page of the work as well.

Once again. Thank you very much for your time and I look forward to receiving the completed work.
Yours sincerely,
Tom

In a message dated 06/23/2001 9:22:43 AM, EricNumis writes:

<< Thank you for your detailed June 18, 2001 letter about the article I sent you for the Asylum about the hanging of a counterfeiter in early America. My son is trying to sharpen the illustration but it is a very crowded dark woodcut with very thin white parts. As far as expanding the article is concerned I will be glad to do that as all of the work was done on the citations and I will condense some of the content of the pamphlet about the life of the character and include that. I tried to be short but I see you feel it should be more detailed. Thank you for your suggestions. Eric P. Newman >>

Subj:	**Re: My article for the Asylum**
Date:	07/01/2001 3:46:00 PM Central Daylight Time
From:	Etfort
To:	EricNumis

Thank you very much for your kind letter. When your secretary types your work does she do it on a computer. If so, could you or she e-mail me the text as an attachment to an e-mail or on a floppy disk? However, she does it the good old fashioned way (i.e., on a typewriter) that is fine since I can always scan the text. By the way, your work will be the lead article for the Fall 2001 issue. The Summer 2001 goes to the printer on Monday or Tuesday and you should receive it in a couple of weeks.
Best wishes,
Tom

Subj:	**Eric Newman illustration**
Date:	07/01/2001 4:34:20 PM Central Daylight Time
From:	AndyRama
To:	Etfort
CC:	EricNumis
File:	**opa's doc.bmp** (2096558 bytes) DL Time (46667 bps): < 12 minutes

Attached is the scan of the illustration my father discussed in his recent email.

Andy Newman

Subj:	**Fwd: Eric Newman illustration**
Date:	07/02/2001 9:04:18 PM Central Daylight Time
From:	AndyRama
To:	EricNumis

Forwarded Message:

Subj:	**Re: Eric Newman illustration**
Date:	07/02/2001 10:39:16 AM Central Daylight Time
From:	Etfort
To:	AndyRama

The image is wonderful! Thank you so very much!

Subj:	**Article on Sullivan for Asylum**
Date:	07/09/2001 4:47:33 PM Central Daylight Time
From:	EricNumis
To:	Etfort

My revised article on the hanging of the counterfeiter is completed. It is 8 double spaced typed pages on computer. It can be sent to you by Word or by rich text formal or on a floppy disc. Which do you prefer? You already have the illustration which goes with it. I presume the illustration may need a caption but do whatever is best. If you do any editing please let me know what changes you wish to make. I want to thank you for the opportunity of expanding the article as it may have much more impact now. Eric P. Newman

Subj:	**Re: Article on Sullivan for Asylum**
Date:	07/10/2001 7:31:39 AM Central Daylight Time
From:	Etfort
To:	EricNumis

Thank you very much for your letter. I would prefer the article in Word and you can simply send it as an attatchment to an e-mail. Once again thank you for your submission.
By the way, the ilustration arrived last week and it is great!

In a message dated Mon, 9 Jul 2001 5:47:33 PM Eastern Daylight Time, EricNumis writes:

<< My revised article on the hanging of the counterfeiter is completed. It is 8 double spaced typed pages on computer. It can be sent to you by Word or by rich text formal or on a floppy disc. Which do you prefer? You already have the illustration which goes with it. I presume the illustration may need a caption but do whatever is best. If you do any editing please let me know what changes you wish to make. I want to thank you for the opportunity of expanding the article as it may have much more impact now. Eric P. Newman >>

Subj:	**Re: Your Asylum article**
Date:	10/07/2001 10:02:50 PM Central Daylight Time
From:	Numiscats
To:	EricNumis

Hi Eric,

What an interesting find, especially in a book of sermons!! Congratulations.

Your article was extremely well researched and written. My article was an "overnighter" based on a request from Wayne for a fill-in for the last issue, and it shows. It was only a few random thoughts put into some slight semblence of readability.

Between you and Joel, there has been more brought to light from the early times than ever before. All I can say is "Keep it going".

Best Regards,
Karl